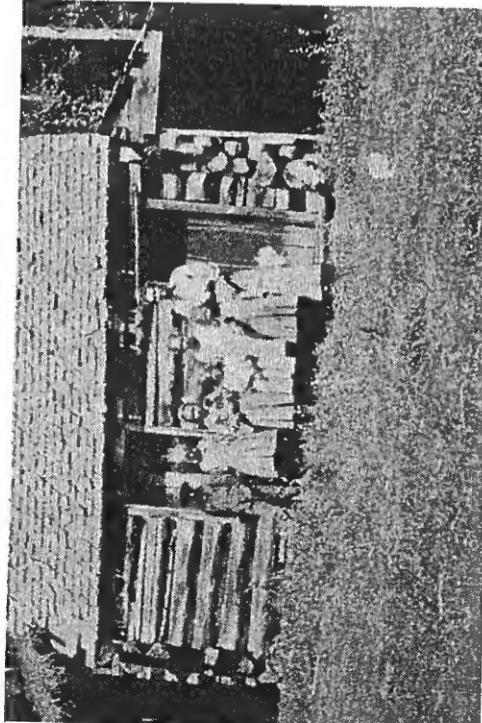


three logs across the room forming several bunks. Most beds were fitted with straw ticks.<sup>3</sup>

The table and benches that constituted the common



Example of early log cabin, built by John Ulrich Probst, Sr. and his son Jacob at Midway.

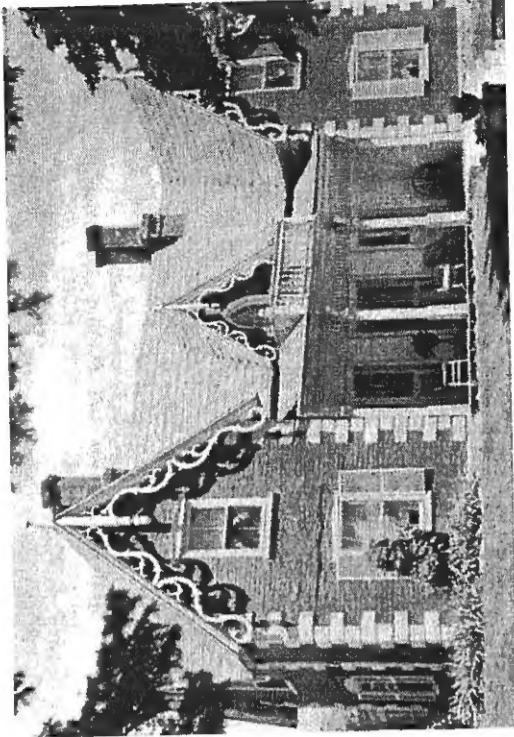
items of furniture were made of slabs and at times there would be some especially prized item, such as a cupboard which the family had carried across the plains. The floors were dirt for the most part, although wooden floors were not unknown. The fireplace was used both for heating and cooking; and since matches were unobtainable, the pioneers started fire with flint or borrowed a light from their neighbors. Borrowing fire was an early morning ritual. John Huber notes that the family who raised the first smoke in the morning could count on someone immediately coming in with a fire

<sup>3</sup>Dorothy Holmes, "Personal Interview with Henry Van Wagener," MSS, (Daughters of Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber City, 1933).

shovel to get some glowing coals.<sup>4</sup> Sagebrush was commonly burned in the fireplace, and the pioneer mother did her cooking over the open fire in kettles and griddles. Bread was baked in the family bake-oven placed in front of the fire. Candles or a rag burning in a pan of grease served for light at night.

The early accounts mention lean hard years during this period. Potatoes, bread, and garlic soup were common fare. Wild game was plentiful though, and served to ease the food problem, although bears came into the field and grubbed for carrots and other vegetables.<sup>5</sup> Clothing was also a great problem. In the summer and fall of 1859 nearly all of the freight trains supplying Camp Floyd passed through the valley, taking advantage

<sup>4</sup>John Huber, "History of Midway Ward," MSS, (Daughters of Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber City, 1920), p. 2.  
<sup>5</sup>Crook, "History of Wasatch County," op. cit., p. 16.



First brick home built in Wasatch County. Built by John Watkins. Now owned by Bishop Henry T. Coleman, Midway, 1868.